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Title: Regarding providing financial assistance for reconstruction of houses affected by the floods.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Hon. Speaker, Madam, the entire country is aware of the devastation caused by the recent floods in Tamil Nadu. Many families have lost their huts and dwelling places along with all the household belongings. In Chennai City, about 50,000 families have already been surveyed and identified living along the banks of the Adayar and Cooum Rivers and the Buckingham Canal. Out of these 50,000 families, the Government of Tamil Nadu would be able to accommodate 25,000 families in tenements already constructed and under construction by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. For the remaining 25,000 families particularly those residing along the Buckingham Canal and for a further 25,000 families residing in the vicinity of other water courses and water bodies in Chennai City affected in the recent flooding, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has prepared a project to construct 50,000 multi-storeyed tenements on various pieces of land that are available with the State Government. The construction cost is expected to be Rs.10 lakh per unit. The total cost of this massive special housing project will be Rs.5,000 crore. Therefore, a special scheme should be sanctioned for constructing 50,000 houses for the urban poor who are to be resettled from water courses and water bodies at a cost of Rs.5,000 crore.

Madam Speaker, in addition to the special scheme, under the existing programmes of the Government of India Rs.1.5 lakh is provided as a grant for reconstruction of houses *in situ*. It is estimated that there are 50,000 such houses in Chennai and adjoining urban areas which were damaged in the floods. Therefore, a special allocation of Rs.750 crore for 50,000 houses at a rate of Rs.1.5 lakh per house as Central grant should be sanctioned. The State Government will add a further Rs.1 lakh per house to provide a grant of Rs.2.5 lakh per house for *in situ* reconstruction of houses in slum areas affected by the floods. Thank you.